

CRAIG FUGATE

As the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM), Craig Fugate oversees a 134 person agency with an annualized budget of \$425 million dollars. The Division coordinates disaster response, recovery, preparedness and mitigation efforts with each of the state's 67 counties and local governments.

Appointed by Governor Jeb Bush in 2001, Director Fugate also serves as the State Coordinating Officer, responsible for the management of the State Emergency Response Team (SERT), as well as the administration of federal disaster recovery and Homeland Security grant programs. In September 2003, the Florida Emergency Management Program became the first state emergency management program in the nation to receive full accreditation from the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.

Fugate's career in public service began in north-central Florida where he served as volunteer firefighter, paramedic, and lieutenant with the Alachua County Fire Rescue. After rising through the fire service ranks, Mr. Fugate served for ten years as the Emergency Manager for Alachua County, Florida.

In May of 1997, he was appointed Chief of the Bureau of Preparedness and Response with the Florida DEM. In his role as the Chief of the State Emergency Response Team, Fugate directed the state's response operations during floods, tornadoes, the 1998 wildfires, and Hurricane George resulting in over 200 days of activation for the state team.

During the Summer of 2004, Fugate, now in his second term as DEM Director, lead the largest combined disaster response in Florida history with one tropical storm and four hurricanes impacting the state during a six-week period. While this unprecedented recovery operation continues, Director Fugate and the State Emergency Response Team stand ready to respond to Florida's next disaster.

In addition to emergency management, Craig and his wife Sheree are avid sea kayakers.